

**A message from the Parish Council
that affects every resident**

A NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR OUR AREA?

Some issues to consider before
a public meeting at

Milton Abbot Village Hall

**Thursday 9th October
7.30pm**

**Milton Abbot Grouped Parish Council
Kelly Parish Meeting**

Bradstone|Chillaton|Dunterton|Kelly|Meadwell|MiltonAbbot|Quither

WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN?

It is a plan prepared by local people, for their community, as part of a new approach giving residents more say in what sort of development takes place in their area and where it should be situated.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan:

- sets out an overall vision and the key priorities of local people.
- has planning policies for the development and use of land in the plan area, including any development needs identified in Borough-wide plans.
- identifies areas which are special and should be protected.
- has to be independently examined.
- needs the support of over 50% of voters in a local referendum.
- once approved, becomes part of the statutory development plan for the Borough and must be taken into account by the Borough Council when planning applications are being considered.

WHY IS THE PARISH COUNCIL PREPARING A PLAN?

The Parish Council has decided to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan that will cover the whole of its area, which includes Bradstone and Dunterton. Kelly Parish Meeting has also decided that it would like its area to be covered by the same plan.

New Government planning rules now allow a more flexible response to changing needs for development. At the same time, local communities have been given the power to influence how those needs should be met in their area and also what should be safeguarded and protected.

This is done with a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Without one, we lose that opportunity to have a direct influence over development that might take place in our area in the future.

So, if we work out what we want [and what we don't want] and get local support for those ideas, they can be brought together in a Neighbourhood Plan that cannot be ignored when planning applications are being considered.

WE DON'T WANT DEVELOPMENT, SO WHY HAVE A PLAN?

We live in a beautiful part of the country and a lot of people will want it to stay much as it is. But, if our communities are to be viable, we need a mixture of young, old, working and retired people. We also need the support the plan would give us against inappropriate development in our area.

For example, do we need to:

- have more homes for local older people who want to downsize?
- help local families obtain affordable accommodation?
- help younger adults working locally, to set up their own homes?

and should we:

- encourage more local jobs?
- improve support for local businesses, pubs and village halls?
- do more to protect the countryside, but make more use of it?

ISN'T THIS A JOB FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL?

Not really. The Parish Council has to start the process and eventually send the final draft to the Borough Council. However, there would be no point in it approving a plan that had not been developed by local residents and contained their views, as it must be supported by the majority in a local referendum.

To carry out the work of preparing the plan, the Parish Council has set up a steering group. It will have no more than three parish councillors on it, plus six residents, although more can be added if necessary.

It's called the Milton Abbot, Chillaton and Kelly Neighbourhood Planning Team, which isn't exactly catchy, so as the initial capital letters of those villages spell MACK, we've come up with this identity for the plan:

Milton **A**bbot, **C**hillaton and **K**elly
Neighbourhood Planning Team

Bradstone|Chillaton|Dunterton|Kelly|Meadwell|MiltonAbbot|Quither



WHAT WOULD I HAVE TO DO?

Firstly, if you can, please come to the meeting on 9th October.

Even if you aren't able to offer practical help in producing the plan, your support for what others are doing is vital. Equally, if you feel that we should be doing things differently, we need to hear your view.

If you are interested in getting involved, it doesn't matter if you haven't done this sort of thing before. Nobody in the plan area has, but we won't be doing it on our own.

We have a Government grant for the cost of an experienced planning consultant to help the MACKPlan team to get going, give it a clear idea of what it has to do and how to go about it. The team will also be supported throughout the process by a Strategic Planning Officer from the Borough Council.

The team will have a variety of things to do, including gathering evidence of changing housing needs, looking at areas that may need additional protection, brainstorming ideas for supporting and developing community facilities, or checking out how local ideas fit with Borough-wide plans.

A survey of local residents will be a key part of the process and what goes into MACKPlan will depend, to some degree, on what those completing the survey say is important to them. Roads, cycling and walking, renewable energy, open spaces and the use of the countryside are all matters that can be given a local dimension by being included in MACKPlan, provided we stay within the framework laid down in national and Borough-wide planning policies.

It does sounds a bit daunting, but we will have help and nobody has to commit to any more than they want to.

REGISTER NOW TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT MACKPLAN

MACKPlan already has its own website www.mackplan.org.uk Please visit the site and click on the 'Contact us' button to register your email address and receive regular updates on MACKPlan progress.

If you can't attend the meeting and want to join the team, or simply have a query, you can also send a message using that 'Contact us' button or phone Howard Asbridge, Parish Clerk on 01822 860378